

REMARKS

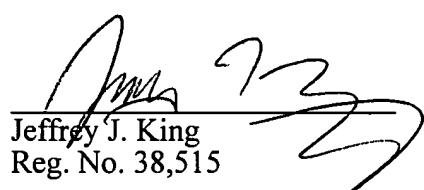
With entry of this amendment, claims 1-6, 8-45, and 47-52 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 21, 22, 39, 48 and 50 were amended and claims 7 and 46 canceled in a first Preliminary Amendment filed March 16, 2000. This first preliminary Amendment was submitted in error due to a miscommunication between Applicants and their representative. This Second Preliminary Amendment therefore effectively withdraws the first Preliminary Amendment—by resubmitting the claims in precisely the same condition as they were originally presented upon filing of the application. Thus, claims 1, 21, 22, 39, 48 and 50 have been amended herein to regain their original form, and claims 51 and 52 have been added to replace claims 7 and 46, respectively, that were erroneously canceled in the first Preliminary Amendment. These amendments are of course directly supported in the original claims as well as by the specification, and no new matter has been added to the application.

Applicants believe all claims pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/5/00

  
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